

LEGISLATIVE ASSEMBLY OF THE NORTHERN TERRITORY

WRITTEN QUESTION

Mr. Higgins to the Minister for Infrastructure, Planning and Logistics

Road changes at Pinelands

1. Please provide an update on the status of proposed changes to road alignments at Pinelands.

The Department of Infrastructure, Planning and Logistics has been undertaking planning work to improve heavy vehicle access into Pinelands. The objectives of the planning work has been to:

- Improve road safety for heavy vehicles and other road users;
- Improve access for heavy vehicles entering Pinelands industrial area from the Stuart Highway interchange (remove the need for heavy vehicles to weave across lanes of traffic);
- Upgrade infrastructure to accommodate future growth;
- Provide safe crossing between Pinelands and Holtze industrial areas; and
- Maintain an acceptable level of service for future arterial traffic increases.

The project is in its consultation phase.

- Stage One consultation - to gather feedback from key stakeholders, including local businesses within the Pinelands and Holtze precincts on the current heavy vehicle access routes used, traffic issues and ideas for improvement. Complete.
- Stage Two consultation - ran from 14 September to 2 November 2018. Complete.
- Stage Three consultation - is expected to occur in the second half of 2019. This will give community/stakeholders an opportunity to comment on the revised concept to help finalise the concept before proceeding to detail design and construction.

2. When will works be complete?

Expected timeframe for the project:

- Complete Stage Three consultation - end of December 2019
- Complete detail design – June 2020
- Award Construction Tender – 2020 dry season
- Construction completion – Dependent on extent of final design

3. In relation to the new alignment, what consultation will be done, with whom and how?

The initial Stage One consultation was with 34 key stakeholders. Stage Two community consultation ran from 14 September to 2 November 2018 and the project team engaged directly with more than 80 stakeholders. The consultation included the development of an easy-to-read, stylised map that was printed and delivered to 485 local businesses, door knocking 42 of the most impacted businesses, attending 18 face-to-face meetings and responding to 33 phone and email enquiries.

Upon completion of the revised concept design based on stakeholder feedback / comments, the revised design will be released for community / stakeholders feedback as a part of Stage Three consultation.

Stage Three consultation will run for a minimum period of six weeks and the Department will undertake a similar level of engagement as Stage Two to clearly explain how the previous feedback has been addressed in the revised concept and seek community preference for the options.

4. Will members of the public have an opportunity to comment on the changes?

Yes, the public will have opportunity to comment on the changes.

5. What modelling has been done on the effect of changing the road alignment at Pinelands?

The engineering consultant undertook an assessment of road capacity and operation including the service roads. This modelling was undertaken by using an AIMSUN micro-simulation model and intersection analysis results using SIDRA. The following scenarios were modelled:

- Existing Scenario – Current Traffic volumes
- Future Traffic volumes short term (5 years)
- Future Traffic volumes medium term (10 years)
- Future Traffic volumes longer term (20 years)